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Letter to Dudley Chase

Philander Chase

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K. Ch. 2312166
London Dec 16 1823

My dear Brother,

I had letters from Mr Clay of Kentucky addressed to Lord Gambier; these I have presented and been very kindly and respectfully received. His Lordship's friendship is particularly grateful to me, not only as he is a man of great piety and of great weight in the Church but that the same joined with his good sense and judgment is of essential service to me under my present very painful circumstances.

My dear Wife and Son, Philander, sent you as I desired, a copy of my printed letter to Bishop White published on the eve of my departure for Eng^d. From this you learned the reasons of my coming hither together with Bishop Roberts opposition to the measure. That opposition he has been pleased to continue in this country both by the publication of hand bills and reviews in the monthly prints.

The good people in Eng^d wonder in a kind of breathless astonishment at all this. Who is this man of the woods whom the Bishop of N. York in the plenitude of his power is thus hunting from our shores? Something is said about ~~lowering~~ the dignity of the Church in America, but what can lower it more in the eyes of good men than to see this attack upon an innocent man in a strange country on his first landing?

I have hardly had time, since I have thus been
knocked down by my good Brother Bishop, to think
coolly, what is best to be done: except it be devoutly
to pray the good God to raise and support me.

I think I am undismayed tho' I feel uncom-
monly troubled. Many seeing how my Bro
-ther has exposed himself by misstatements in
an unnecessary assault on me, to a righteous
defeat before the Bar of public Opinion, advise
that the defence be as public as the attack, &
also as personal. But I have not so learned
Christ. Mine opponent has certainly done wrong
in attacking me before the British public: but
this does not make it ^{right} ~~wrong~~ that I should
follow his example. The place of our Chat at
home is to be regarded: and tho' by the won-
derful principles of sympathy in favour of the
oppressed, I could, as in the opinion all the can-
did, gain much, by disregarding that place &
going to war, yet I had rather go home but
with a small subscription in quietness, than
with thousands in contention.

A middle course I think will be taken of publish-
-ing facts; and relying ^{on} reasons abstracted by us sides
aside from all personal injuries recd. and in this
I shall, as I have grounds to believe ~~believe~~ be assisted
by the first talents and integrity in Engd. —
The plan is not as yet sufficiently matured to ad-
mit of my being more particular.
You will be glad to hear that I feel that I feel nothing
like a spirit of retaliation on this unpleasant subject

The truth is my views are higher than to admit of such a feeling. In carrying the principles of our Primitive Church beyond the Alleghany mountains I have disregarded every thing of a personal nature; and it is not to be expected that I resume such sordid principles in this distant land. I did not come to England to fight for honour with a Brother; I came to plead for our common Christianity and, if God's will be, to suffer in its cause.

In coming to London from Liverpool I took Manchester in my way. There I had the pleasure of seeing our interesting Nephew Benjⁿ. Chase. He is amazingly improved in appearance & doing well in business & I tarried several days with Mr. T. Higgins and became acquainted with his lovely family. It is not in your power to over rate their attention and kindness to me. Mr. H. applauds my plan; and is beyond all example zealous in my cause. He writes me since in London that he has engaged many friends: and told me (if I and my friends thought it would have a good effect) to put him on the London Subscription list (for the Church education school in Ohio) for 50. \$22.

When I come to Vermont you must do something for this school. I have given to it my farm stock Library &c. in Ohio. Tell them all in Vermont they must assist me in this great object or I shall die of grief. My whole heart is in it and God will bless me. Your Brother Philam^{us} Chase

Tell me in your letter if you would wish to
see me once more before we die! Shall I bring
my new wife and all the children, Dudley
Henry & Mary? Will you be glad to see us?
Do remember me to all my old and dear
Friends?

1.94
8.17
1.11

The Hon. Judge Chase
Randolph
Vermont
N. America.

MAR 11

13 - 97
London Dec 14
1823

P.S.

I have sent this to the care of Leonard
Kip Esq. New York. I wish you would write me
while in Eng? - Pray do it as soon as may be
There is no way in which a letter would reach me
sooner than by inclosing it in one to this Mr Kip
to come by the New York packets
Direct - care of The Pres. Mr Pratt No. 22
Doughty Street London

Laura Smith Collection